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Ford sets up CIA safeguards

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Ford Tuesday placed all intelligence operations under the management of CIA director George Bush and created an independent, three-man White House board to safeguard against intelligence-gathering abuses.

The President, announcing a series of major reforms at the outset of a nationally broadcast news conference at the White House, asked Congress to outlaw assassination attempts by U.S. intelligence agencies against foreign heads of state and to make it a federal crime for agency employees to leak secret information.

Ford also said he was issuing a comprehensive set of legally binding guidelines intended to provide "stringent protections for the rights of American citizens" against illegal domestic intelligence activities.

Acting after months of widespread allegations of illegal or questionable CIA activities in Congress and the press, the President made clear he would retain ultimate control for U.S. intelligence gathering.

As administrative chief of the intelligence community, Bush will carry out policy set only by the National Security Council headed by the President.

The special White House board created to report on intelligence agency abuses will be headed by Undersecretary of State Robert D. Murphy, former chief of secret diplomatic operations in World War II, and also will include former Army Secretary Stephen Altes and economist Leo Cherne.

Ford said it is important to have strong intelligence agencies and as

President, "I will not be a party to the dismantling of the CIA and the other intelligence agencies."

Pressed further about Bush's qualifications, Ford said, "I think he has the intelligence to do the job and the experience in foreign policy."

Ford said he is confident that Bush "will perform superbly" as head of U.S. intelligence activities even though he is not an intelligence officer by profession.

He said he did not agree with the premise of a reporter's question, who said Bush lacked background in intelligence matters. Ford said Bush did a "superb job" as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and served extremely well as U.S. representative in China.

But in the end, Ford said "the final and ultimate responsibility falls on the

shoulders of the President." Ford said he would take that responsibility.

Asked whether placing responsibility for the CIA in the White House might lead to abuses, Ford said, "I can assure you it (the responsibility) will be handled in the most appropriate way."

In response to another question, the President said he had "no plans" to ask former President Richard M. Nixon to call off or postpone his trip this week to the Peoples Republic of China.

"I don't believe that for any alleged political purposes . . . I should intervene in a trip by a private citizen," Ford said.

The President denied that any "special briefing" had been given Nixon in preparation for his trip, but said Nixon had received the general briefings "on world affairs" which

customarily are provided to former presidents.

Regarding the elections in November, Ford said he believed that "anyone to the right of me cannot win the election." He said he was not referring specifically to Ronald Reagan in that statement — that there are candidates of both parties philosophically to the right of him.

The President cited two main issues on which he differs with the former California governor: Social Security and the Reagan plan to trim federal spending by \$90 billion.

Asked how he feels he will do in the New Hampshire and Florida primaries, Ford replied: "I think we'll do well in both."

"I was greatly encouraged by the two days I have just spent in Florida," the (See FORD, Page 14)



President Ford Announces checks on CIA

Insight Legislators join against reform bill Modernization of House faces mixed coalition

By J.D. Kidd
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — In an election year, the leaders within each party are expected to pull together on major issues and legislation.

But in the General Assembly this year, a strange coalition of legislative leaders from both parties is joined in opposition to a key measure — modernization.

After maneuvering his reform resolution through the House Modernization Committee, State Rep. Joe Holt, D-Fulton, brought the measure to the floor for debate last week.

During a day-long debate, several key elements of the resolution were shot down by House Majority Leader Kenneth Rothman, D-Clayton, and a majority of the rural representatives, many of them Republicans.

The rural-urban coalition rejected attempts to reduce the size of the House to 125 from 163, and to increase annual legislative salaries to as much as \$12,400 from \$8,400.

Speaker Richard Rabbitt, D-St. Louis, and Minority Leader Robert Snyder, R-Kirkwood, pushed for modernization and failed.

Seldom in the past have Rothman and conservative State Rep. Robert Young, R-Carthage, stood on the same side of an issue. But this year they have joined, at least on modernization, to dim the chances of any of the reforms recommended by a citizens committee last year.

Any modernization measures passed by the General Assembly still would have to be placed before state voters in November.

In the Senate, President Pro Tem William Cason, D-Clinton, and State Sen. John Schneider, D-St. Louis, have led the push for modernization. Those two also have quarreled in the past.

The political maneuvering on modernization might be keyed to the re-election campaigns of both its supporters and its opponents.

The major proponents of modernization are seeking higher office. Rabbitt is running for lieutenant governor, Snyder for the Second District congressional seat and Cason for governor.

Both Gov. Christopher Bond and Lt. Gov. William Phelps support some aspects of modernization, and both also are running for re-election.

Last year, the governor vetoed a legislative pay raise and he repeatedly has threatened vetoes of any pay raise if no other reforms are passed and sent to his desk.

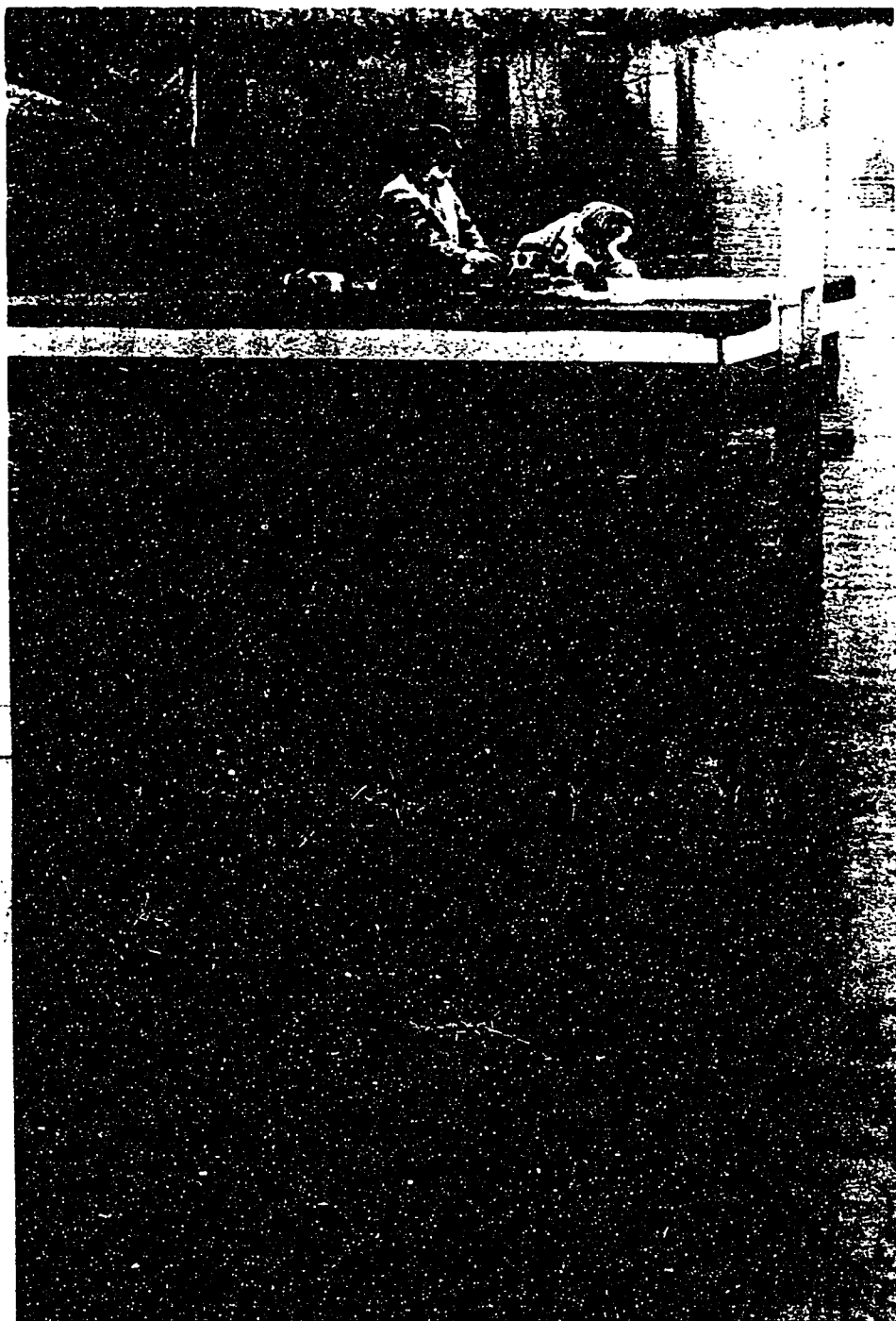
This year, Bond may not have to make that decision, for one of two reasons.

Modernization in any form likely will not reach the governor's desk. If this occurs, an initiative petition to place the issue of pay raises on the November ballot is being organized by a citizens group, Missourians for Common Sense.

Rabbitt also has threatened to put legislative modernization on the November ballot through an initiative petition if legislators do not do it themselves.

But modernization in the General Assembly is not dead — yet. Holt's House resolution, stripped of pay raises and membership reduction, still faces more floor debate.

Holt expects the major thrust to (See JONES, Page 14)



Water fantasy

Catherine Werner and Paula Leeson found that Tuesday was a good day to act out their fantasies on a dock adjoining the Leesons' home at 1019 Vegas Drive. The temperature reached 12 C (53 F) as Columbians enjoyed continued good weather. (Missourian photo by John Simmons)

Gasoline leak still puzzling city

By Sanford Meislich
Missourian staff writer

Oscar Cunningham watched his customers drive away dissatisfied, and in search of an open gasoline station Tuesday.

Arlo Ham, district manager for Davison Oil Co., paced the driveway of the company's Business 63 South station while a Kansas City firm tested its three gasoline tanks for leaks.

Marvin Nichols, city fire battalion chief, waited anxiously to find out when residents of Charles, Ammonette and Hazelwood streets would be free of the danger of explosion.

One of the tanks showed no leaks; testers worked into the early morning on the other two. So, today the source of the leaking gasoline, a mystery to fire officials for several months, may be known.

Residents near the station have been complaining of a gasoline odor for several months.

Nichols said a test on the station's tanks when the complaints were first made showed no leaks.

Wilford and Dorothy Sutton, 2009 Ammonette St., discovered gasoline fumes rising from the drain of a basement shower a couple of months ago. The fire department flushed the sanitary sewer

line serving the neighborhood, and the odor disappeared.

Thursday night, the fire department flushed the sewer line for the third time in two months.

Monday, the fire department ordered Cunningham to close his self-service station indefinitely because gasoline was discovered seeping through the curb at Ammonette Street and Business 63 South, where the station is located.

Today, the gasoline that has accumulated under the station will be pumped up. Nichols said Tuesday night no decision has been made about how the gasoline will be destroyed.

Cunningham, Ham and Nichols

do, should their parents support the plan with higher taxes or should the district be annexed to the Columbia school system? Or should Midway expand its elementary program to include seventh graders?

The answers to those questions were varied and often emotional, but one opinion was overriding. In an informal opinion survey taken by the school board, 53 of those present favored annexation and 50 of them favored a 50-cent tax increase to pay for continuation of the plan sending students in upper grades to Columbia schools.

They now pay \$4.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation for their elementary school. Junior and senior high school students go to Columbia.

In a presentation before the discussion began, Short presented

The car was one of 12 patrol cars used by regular sheriff's deputies until the court decided last year that deputies would have to drive their personal cars. Drew said plans are being made to sell the other cars.

Civil Defense Director George Hughes told the court he is surveying the county's emergency warning procedures. He said he was seeking federal matching funds for siren alarms and a tone-alert system for use in county schools and nursing homes.

The tone alert system would provide verbal warning by radio receivers activated by the Columbia Police Department's radio frequency. Hughes said he would need \$2,500 to \$3,000 from the county and city.

The court also appointed William F. Berry, Hallsville, to the Boone County Community Services Council. Berry was formerly an adviser to the state division of welfare.

Midway considers school options

By Jim Orso
Missourian staff writer

The Midway School District is suffering from growing pains, and some Midway residents would like to see Columbia absorb part of them.

Members of the Midway school board and Kenneth Short, superintendent of the Midway Heights School District, met with about 75 citizens Tuesday night at Midway Elementary School to discuss a growth plan that would help alleviate some of the problems resulting from projected growth in the area, northwest of Columbia.

The issue at hand is whether 31 Midway Elementary School six-graders should attend Jefferson Junior High in Columbia next year as those in grades seven and higher do now. And, if they

agree the leaking gasoline is a mystery. "I've never seen anything like it," Ham said.

"Our records show no gasoline is missing," Cunningham said. "Usually when gasoline is leaking it shows on your records. I just can't figure it."

Ham said he didn't want to think about what the problem is costing the company. He figures the costs include the time the station is closed, the lost customers and the bill for discovering and repairing the problem.

Alan L. Davison, a city fire inspector, said gasoline leaks are traced back to gasoline stations about eight times a year in Columbia.

details of the alternate plans — expanding Midway or "going to town," as the Midway residents put it.

"Jeff (Junior) is a large enough school to offer a lot of things — three foreign languages, remedial reading, physical education, music, arts and crafts, industrial and home economics and speech," he said.

However, he also pointed out that expanding the Midway School would be advantageous to the fifth and sixth grades and would generally "strengthen the rest of our school" without a significant increase in personnel.

But most persons present insisted that facilities in Columbia would be much better. "The money doesn't make any difference to us," one citizen said. "It's the quality of the education of the kids we're worried about. And I'll go to town and pay anything for that," he said. Those in attendance supported his position with energetic applause.

Short pointed out after the meeting that the issue is still in the discussion stage, and informal discussions will continue before a possible board vote on the issue in April.

Court finds truth 'fine' for speeder

Honesty may be the best policy, but it cost Andrew Martin Gravnaga, 20, of 326A Cramer Hall, an additional \$13 in fines Tuesday in Municipal Court.

Gravnaga was charged with speeding Jan. 31 on Paris Road. Police paced him at 59 kilometers per hour (37 m.p.h.) in a 38-kilometer per hour (30-m.p.h.) zone. Assistant city counselor Rhonda Thomas recommended the minimum fine of \$7 since he had no prior violations.

But then Gravnaga spoke up, telling the court his record was not spotless and that he had two prior traffic convictions in the past two years.

Judge Fred Dannov commended Gravnaga for his honesty but informed him it is the court's policy to fine a speeding offender more than the minimum when he has a previous record. Dannov fined him \$20.

No-fault bill tentatively approved

By J. D. Kidd
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — After three hours of debate over the meaning of words like "vexatious" and "reasonable," the House Tuesday gave tentative approval to no-fault automobile insurance.

A shouting match punctuated the otherwise orderly debate as no-fault sponsor Rep. Walter Meyer, D-Bellefontaine, and Rep. Harold Holliday, D-Kansas City, disagreed on elements of the bill.

Speaker Pro Tem Richard DeCoster twice gavelled the House to order before the bill was tentatively approved

117 to 17 on a vote to finish amending it.

The bill would eliminate lawsuits filed for personal injury damages of \$600 or less, and would require insurance companies to pay these damages outright to persons filing a claim.

Holliday introduced an amendment that would have made this no-fault, or "direct payment" provision optional, and would have eliminated the \$600 threshold. He cited rising insurance rates in states that have adopted mandatory no-fault insurance as the reason for his amendment.

Meyer countered with his own set of statistics, citing reduced rates in states with mandatory no-fault insurance.

Each legislator then began to shout the names of states into his microphone.

The Holliday amendment was defeated 53 to 84.

No-fault bills have kicked around the General Assembly in each of the past two sessions. The House has passed two no-fault bills only to see them die in the Senate Insurance Committee.

Meyer contends that mandatory no-fault will reduce premiums by eliminating the costly legal battles over relatively small claims.

His bill also provides a mandatory insurance premium rate reduction of 15 per cent in the first year of no-fault insurance.

This reduction would only apply to

premiums paid for personal injury protection, and would not affect premiums for collision or comprehensive coverage.

Holliday also introduced an amendment to strike the word "vexatious" from a section dealing with an insurance company's refusal to pay for property damages.

He argued that it would be impossible to prove that a company was vexatiously refusing to pay, or refusing to pay purely as a means to harass a claimant.

Meyer asked that the House "not load this bill down with goodies and kill it with kindness" by debating unlim- (See HOUSE, Page 14)